

**From:** Ahaleblian@aol.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 7:26am  
**Subject:** Microsoft settlement

To Those Concerned:

It is fair to say that Microsoft has been a pioneer in the field of computers programming and this computer age. Its motto "freedom to innovate" has resulted in the many improvements in the American life, be it commerce, manufacturing, transfer of information, individual amenities, learning etc., In fact it has impacted every phase of human activity, not only in the USA but throughout the world.

As an ex-Associate Professor (retired) in the field of business management, accounting and finance, I have witnessed the development of the various Microsoft programs over the 15 years and their impact on the students' ability to use them to accelerate the rate and, thus, the volume of learning.

It is also fair to say that Microsoft's contribution to the other pioneers to create peripheral electronic products by providing capital through investing in such ventures or providing its products to enable them to build on the basis of such information. The cumulative benefit to of all the enterprises to humanity has been greatly enhanced,

The charges brought forth against Microsoft's that business activities were monopolistic and the decision issued by Judge T.P Jackson has been adequately proven to be an erroneous one over the period between its inception of the charges made and the present by the mere facts of the industries' (and substantial competitor companies) activities and mode of operations e.g. Aol - Netscape -Time Warner and many others. I am willing to accept that the technical aspect of the law resulted in fines, and that Microsoft is willing to go the extra mile to resolve the issue by proposing a, more than generous, settlement. which is now being unreasonably turned down.

The penalties that seem to be on the table are substantial and extremely unfair to Microsoft's investors who have patiently awaited for the day that they will be rewarded in terms of dividends. The investors have realized the necessity of reinvestment for the development of new and innovative products and the accumulation of profits for use for the new products. Now the resources are being diverted to other parties' benefit. I believe this is totally unfair if not utterly unwise.

The stance of the nine states is an extremely self-serving one. Who are they to say that their citizens were overcharged on Microsoft products? I cannot imagine any individual who feels any differently then I. Microsoft did not put a gun to my head to force me to buy its product. I did it voluntarily and gladly. I would like to know how these state litigants intend to spend the monies that they aspire to receive, Surely they don't, and cannot, identify

each of the product purchaser and give them their refunds. Even if they tried, the bureaucratic system would absorb the lion's share of the funds, leaving pennies on the dollars to the actual purchasers of the product.

I for one, am looking for a fair return on my hard earned investment. I can only expect that to happen if this case is closed and Microsoft can continue to exercise its prerogative and right to innovate.

Microsoft has the right to protect its intellectual property and the right to innovate without impediments. Its business practices are no different from those of the competitors who have survived the present depressed economy.

ITS TIME TO SETTLE THIS ISSUE AND MOVE ON.

Respectfully,  
Albert J. Halebian

CC: MSFIN@microsoft.com@inetgw